

CLAIMS

1. A method for treating an atopic condition, comprising
administering to a subject in need of treatment of an atopic condition an
5 immunostimulatory nucleic acid, comprising:



wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid includes at least 8 nucleotides and wherein C is unmethylated and wherein X_1 and X_2 are nucleotides, in an effective amount to treat the atopic condition.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the atopic condition is atopic dermatitis.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein X_1 is selected from the group consisting of A, G, and T, and wherein X_2 is selected from the group consisting of C and T.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising administering to the subject an allergen in conjunction with the administering of the immunostimulatory nucleic acid.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid comprises



wherein C is unmethylated and wherein X_1 , X_2 , X_3 , and X_4 are nucleotides.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein $X_1 X_2$ is selected from the group consisting of GpT, GpG, GpA and ApA.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein $X_3 X_4$ is selected from the group consisting of TpT and CpT.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein $X_1 X_2$ is selected from the group consisting of GpT, GpG, GpA and ApA and wherein $X_3 X_4$ is selected from the group consisting of TpT and CpT.

9. The method of claim 5, wherein $5' X_1 X_2 CGX_3 X_4 3'$ is not a palindrome.

10. The method of claim 5, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of

TCCATGTCGGTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:37),

TCCATGCCGGTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:38),

5 TCCATGGCGGTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:39),

TCCATGACGGTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:40),

TCCATGTCGCTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:42),

TCCATGTCGTTTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:43),

TCCATGACGTTTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:44), and

10 TCCATAACGTTTCCTGATGCT (SEQ ID NO:45).

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is a synthetic nucleic acid molecule.

15 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is 8 to 100 nucleotides in length.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is 8 to 40 nucleotides in length.

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14. The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is a stabilized nucleic acid molecule.

25 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid includes a phosphate backbone modification which is a phosphorothioate or phosphorodithioate modification.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is administered to the subject orally.

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17. The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is administered to the subject transdermally.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is administered to the subject by injection.